

scabies. 'A dried piece of the testis heated with ghee from cow's milk, when cooled can be used as a medicine for a type of lips and tongue disease (in Orissa called: Áliti ghá) seen in children less than a year old. The same product also cures skin sores due to contact with the poisonous urine (?) of spiders'.

CENTRAL CROCODILE BREEDING AND
MANAGEMENT TRAINING INSTITUTE,
19-4-319, LAKE DALE,
HYDERABAD-500 264,
October 24, 1981.

The Common Indian Palm Civet is called 'Sáliá Patani.' in Oriya language

I wish to thank the Orissa Forest Department and the staff of the Gharial Research and Conservation Unit, Tikerpada for assistance.

L. A. K. SINGH

REFERENCES

ACHARJYO, L. N. AND MISHRA, C. G. (1980) : Some notes on age of sexual maturity of seven species of Indian wild mammals in captivity. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 77 (3) : 504-507.

DOBRORUKA, L. J. (1978) : Hand-rearing a common palm civet *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus* at Dvurkralove Zoo. *Int. Zoo yearbook*, 18 : 210-211.

5. BIRTH OF WHITE TIGER (*PANTHERA TIGRIS*) CUBS TO NORMAL COLOURED TIGERS IN CAPTIVITY

(With a text-figure)

The White Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) is a magnificent snow white animal with ash or light black stripes, pink paw pads and ice-blue eyes. All the white tigers so far available in captivity had their origin from a male White Tiger named 'Mohan' captured from the forests of Rewa (Madhya Pradesh) in May, 1951 at an estimated age of about nine months. The present communication deals with the birth of three White Tiger cubs in one litter at the Nandankanan Biological Park, Orissa to a pair of normal coloured tigers with apparently no known history of having any relation with the White Tiger 'Mohan'.

A normal coloured tigress 'Ganga' whose mating with a normal coloured tiger 'Deepak'

was observed from 24-9-79 to 3-10-79 in the Park, gave birth to three White Tiger Cubs (two females and one male) on 8-1-1980. This is the result of a father-daughter mating.

The body colour of the cubs were snow white with light black stripes, pink paw pads and ice-blue eyes. The eyes of the cubs opened on 12th day (one male and one female cubs) and on 11th day (right eye) and 12th day (left eye) in case of the other female cub.

The weight and size of these cubs recorded after about 48 hours on 10-1-1980 were as follows : weight—1.210 Kg (female), 1.240 Kg (female) and 1.385 Kg (male) and measured 50 cm tip to tip including 15 cm long tail

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

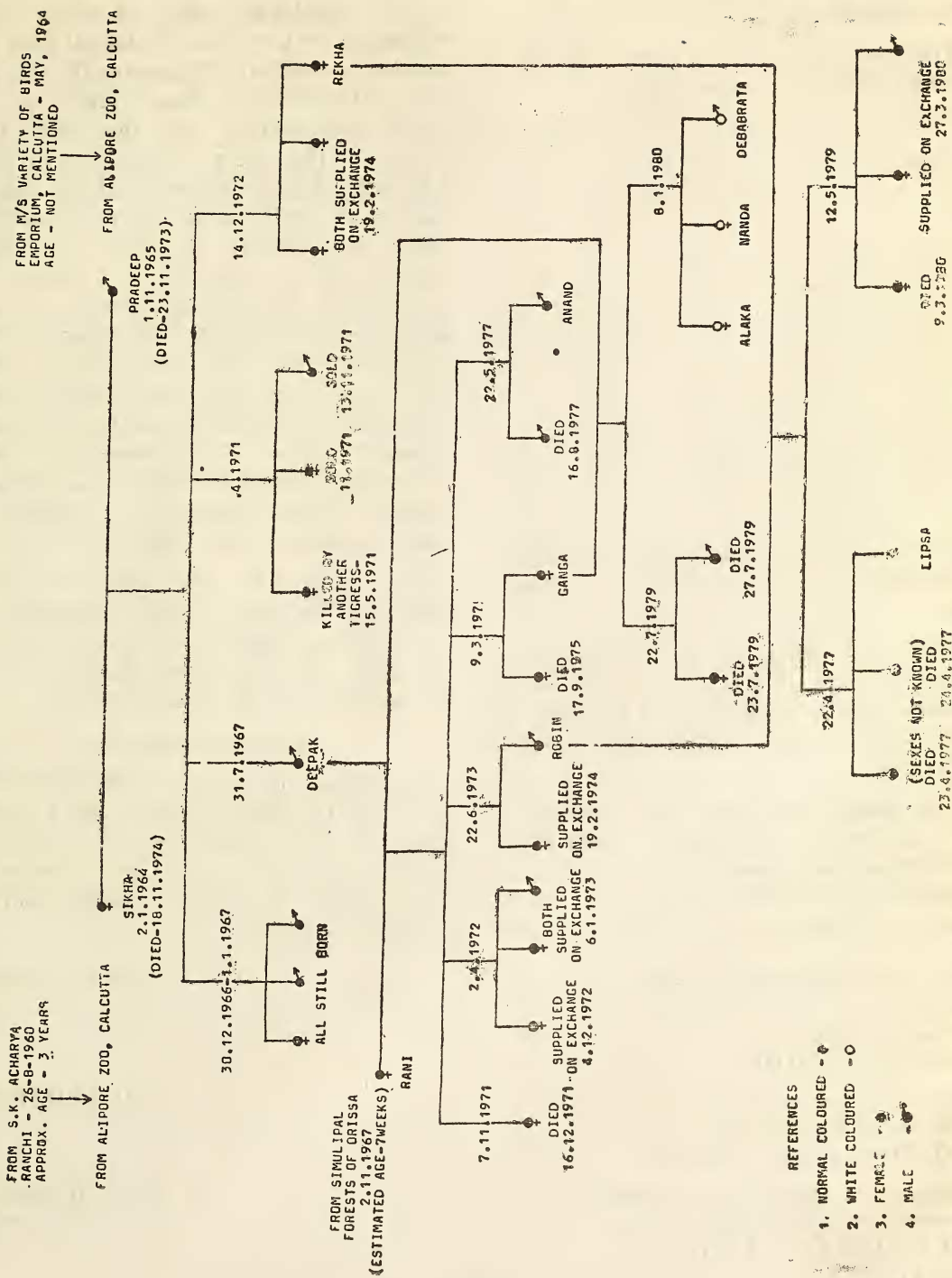


Fig. 1. Chart showing the genealogy of white tiger cubs born at the Nandankanan Biological Park, Orissa.

(females) and 52 cm tip to tip including 16 cm long tail (male).

The growth rate of these cubs to the age of 3 months were recorded as follows :—

Date	Age	Cub No.	Cub No.	Cub No.
		I (female)	II (female)	III (male)
		Kgs.	Kgs.	Kgs.
10.1.1980	48 hours	1.210	1.240	1.380
5.2.1980	4 weeks	3.400	3.800	3.705
12.2.1980	5 weeks	3.800	4.200	4.000
19.2.1980	6 weeks	4.200	4.800	4.200
26.2.1980	7 weeks	4.800	5.200	4.800
4.3.1980	8 weeks	5.200	5.600	5.400
11.3.1980	9 weeks	6.000	6.400	5.800
18.3.1980	10 weeks	6.800	7.200	6.400
25.3.1980	11 weeks	7.600	8.200	7.200
1.4.1980	12 weeks	8.800	9.200	8.200
8.4.1980	13 weeks	9.500	10.400	9.400

The incisors of the cubs appeared in the fifth week and the canines appeared in the seventh week.

Earlier the female of this pair of normal coloured tigers gave birth to two normal coloured tiger cubs on 22-7-1979 but both cubs died within six days as the mother failed to nurse them.

The genealogy of these white tiger cubs is given in the chart (Fig. 1). A study of the genealogical chart reveals that 31 tiger cubs were born in 13 litters out of which only one litter was of white colour, i.e. 7.69% of the litters

and 9.67% of the cubs were white. The study of this genealogical chart of white tigers maintained by the Delhi Zoological Park and reported by Saharia (1979) apparently does not give an indication of these white tiger cubs having any relation with the white tiger 'Mohan'. The origin of tigers received from Alipore Zoological Gardens, Calcutta beyond the Animal Dealers could not be ascertained. There were reports of white tigers being shot in Orissa (Gee 1964 a). Perusal of the available literature (Gee 1964, a and b, Sankhala 1969, Oswald 1960, Saharia 1979, Robinson 1928, Pant and Dhariyal 1979) did not reveal any information about the birth of all white coloured cubs in one litter to normal coloured parents. The genealogical chart further suggests that the tigers 'Deepak' and 'Ganga' were heterozygous having the recessive gene for white colour.

The pairing of the white tigers born in the Park with the white coloured descendants of the white tiger 'Mohan' can prevent inbreeding and thus may give better chances for the breeding and survival of the white tigers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are thankful to Shri A. P. Mohanty, I.F.S., Chief Wild Life Warden, Orissa, Shri P. Mohapatra, I.F.S., Addl. Chief Conservator of Forests and Shri S. N. Das, I.F.S., Chief Conservator of Forests for the facilities provided and for their encouragement.

WILD LIFE CONSERVATION OFFICER,
ORISSA,
95-SAHID NAGAR,
BHUBANESWAR-751 007.

VETERINARY ASSISTANT SURGEON,
NANDANKANAN BIOLOGICAL PARK,
P. O. BARANG, DIST : CUTTACK.

ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,
NANDANKANAN BIOLOGICAL PARK,
P.O. BARANG, DIST : CUTTACK.
June 17, 1980.

CH. G. MISHRA

L. N. ACHARJYO

L. N. CHOUDHURY

REFERENCES

- GEE, E. P. (1964 a): The White Tigers. *Animals*, Tiger Breeding—Its economic potentialities. *Cheetal* Vol. 3 (11), pp. 282-286.
- (1964 b): The Wild Life of India. Collins, London, pp. 69-75.
- OSWALD, A. (1960): The White Tigers of Rewa. *Cheetal*, 2 (2): 63-67.
- PANT, M. M. AND DHARIYAL, I. D. (1979): White Tiger Breeding—Its economic potentialities. *Cheetal* 21 (1): 3-10.
- ROBINSON, F. B. (1928): White Tigers. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 32 (3): 584-585.
- SAHARIA, V. B. (1979): Population Dynamics in Captive Tigers. *Wild Life News Letter*, Vol. 7 (2): 36-40.
- SANKHALA, K. S. (1969): The White Tigers. *Cheetal*, 12 (1): 78-81.

6. AN INSTANCE OF FOSTERING IN CAPTIVITY IN THE WESTERN GHATS SQUIRREL, *FUNAMBULUS TRISTRIATUS* WATERHOUSE

The behaviour of fostering was already observed and studied in several rodents (Denenberg *et al.* 1963, Muul 1970, Grota 1973, Ajayi 1975). In all these studies the mother was not exposed simultaneously to her own litter and that of others. In this short communication an instance where a mother Western Ghats Squirrel (*Funambulus tristriatus* Waterhouse) suckled and reared the young ones of another squirrel along with her own is reported.

On 6 April 1978 I collected two young *F. tristriatus* weighing 14.25 g (♂) and 17.5 g (♀) from a nest. Their eyes were yet to be opened. The female had developed only the lower, while the male had both upper and lower incisors. Pelage development was incomplete. From these characters the age of this litter was assessed as approximately 20 days. These young ones were placed in the cage (75 × 30 × 30 cm) of a female *F. tristriatus* which was rearing her own 40-day-old litter. At first the mother squirrel

was little 'aggressive' towards the new comers, but later on she suckled and reared them along with her own litter. Within a week the fostered young ones opened their eyes and increased in body weight to 18.50 and 21.50 g respectively. They were raised by the foster mother until weaning.

Denenberg *et al.* (1963) opined that the longer the mothers had been lactating before being given foster young, the higher was the mortality percentage. In albino rats Denenberg *et al.* (op. cit.) observed that fostering to 5 or 10 day lactating mothers resulted in significant increase in the rate of mortality. In the present study the Western Ghats Squirrel adopted the litter of another female even at 40 days post partum. This phenomenon could be taken advantage of in rearing squirrels in captivity.

The financial assistance received from the CSIR, New Delhi for the conduct of the studies on squirrels is gratefully acknowledged.

CENTRAL PLANTATION CROPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE,
REGIONAL STATION,
VITTAL-574 243,
KARNATAKA, INDIA,
February 2, 1982.

S. KESHAVA BHAT